ferentiable layer of scales and 7-8 scales as counted across from *gular end* to *mid-genial*. Other lepidosis counts are not different in juveniles from adults.

*Pre-ano-femoral pores*: Location of these pores in juveniles is same as in adults. But both types of pores (preanal anterior to anal opening and femoral on thighs) are in one continuous line. However, *preanal-pores* are on an angular vedge (inverted 'v') anterior to the anal opening and number 4-5 on each arm. The *femoral pores* commence from femoral point to the vedge of the *anal-pores* and number 7-14 on each side of the arm. However, both types of pores are bordered by 4-6 differentiable scales around each pore. In some cases, the number on each side varies and in one case two femoral pores are joined. In live juveniles it was also observed that by pressing a coverslip on these pores no secretion was exuded; also, such individuals did not show development of gonads. This appears to indicate that presence of these pores is not a morphological character age differentiation and sexual maturity and is not a sexual dimorphic character as has been shown in Gekkonids.

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## 19. EXTENSION OF DISTRIBUTION OF *THRISSINA BOELAMA* (FORSKAL) (PISCES: CLUPEIFORMES: ENGRAULIDAE) WITH REMARKS ON ITS TAXONOMIC CHARACTERS

Though the anchovy species *Thrissina boelama* was described as early as 1775 (Forskal 1775), it was rarely recorded from Indian Coast indicating that it is a very rare species.

Recently while studying the Clupeoid fishes of southeast coast of India, I came across one specimen of *Thrissina boelama*, whose description is given below briefly.

*Material*: One example from Amalinagar Fishing Village 45 km south of Tuticorin, Tamilnadu, K. V. Rama Rao, 30-i-1973.

*Description*: Body somewhat full (compared to *Thryssa*), elongated. Head enlongated with somewhat prominent snout. Eye in the anterior half of the head. Belly not sharply keeled. Two scutes before pectoral origin remaining scutes before and after ventral fin base. Maxilla extending upto the margin of preopercle but not quite reaching it. Two premaxillae on the maxilla. Maxilla flattened towards the end before becoming pointed at the tip. Lower edge of maxilla is finely toothed all along the length. Mandible is also similarly toothed along the upper edge. Pectorals do not reach upto ventral fin origin. Elongated axillary scale present at pectoral origin. Ventrals originate slightly before dorsal. Anal origin just behind Dorsal. Caudal deeply forked. Scales fairly large and intact even in preservation. Dorsal side dark in colour becom-

ing silvery laterally. Fins translucent.

*Measurements* (in mm): Total length 123, standard length 103-5, head length 27.5, body depth 23.0, eye diameter 6.7, snout 5.5, interorbital distance 6.5, prepectoral distance 28.0, pectoral fin length 15.5, preventral distance 45.2, ventral fin length 12.5, predorsal distance 48.5, dorsal base 23.5, maxilla length 23.7.

Pectoral f. r. 13 ventral f. r. 7, Dorsal f. r. I + iii + 12, Anal f. r. iii + 25, Caudal f. r. + 19 +, Prepectoral scutes 2, Prepelvic Scutes 7, Post pelvic Scutes 8, Gillrakers upper arm 17, lower arm 23, Lateral line Scales 36.

*Remarks*: The specimens recorded by Whitehead (1967) from Arabian Sea do not possess scutes before pectoral origin, resembling those from Red Sea, Gulf of Aden, Mauritius and Cocos Keeling Is. (Whitehead *et al.* 1966). However, records (Fowler 1941, p. 686) are these from Indo-Pacific region with scutes before pectoral origin. The presence of scutes before pectoral origin in the present specimen indicates its nearness to Indo-Pacific population rather than to Arabian and Red Sea populations. Geographically also it stands to reason. Further the present specimen agrees more with Bleeker's original description of *Engraulis encrasicholoides* (Whitehead *et al.* 1966, p. 118) in the presence of prepectoral scutes and lateral line scale counts. However, as pointed out by Whitehead *et al.* (op. cit.) more specimens need to be studied before any conclusions can be drawn regarding the taxonomic reassignment with reference to the presence or absence of prepectoral scutes. For the present it is obvious that the absence of prepectoral scutes forms neither a generic nor a specific character.

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